

Mitchell Lead Cut by Heavy German Vote

Bennett's Showing Regarded as Blow at Mayor's War Activities

Defeated Candidate To Demand Recount

Fusion, Alarmed by Result, Starts Energetic Campaign

The figure, 1,119, Mayor Mitchell's majority over William M. Bennett, his opponent in the Republican primaries, was untied yesterday in the Fusion campaign records in silence, and with respectful deliberation.

In the minds of the political analysts, it stood for more than an unsatisfactory margin. It stood for an expression of a feeling akin to that manifested by the Socialist-Pacifists and German propagandists. Some called it a play into the hands of the Tammany-Hearst outfit, which has been charged with having pro-German sympathies.

The danger loomed even larger in the announcement of Bennett yesterday that he had been "counted out" and would demand a recount, and his further intimation that if he could not win that way he might enter the running as an independent candidate.

It was stated unofficially last night that petitions for the nomination of Bennett as an independent candidate for Mayor had already been sent to the printers and would be circulated to-day. It was said that the petitions were being printed without Bennett's knowledge, by some of his most ardent supporters, in the hope that he could be persuaded later to make the run independently.

Mayor Issues Warning

Mayor Mitchell himself sounded the warning yesterday in his speech to the Women's Committee of 100 when he proclaimed Americanism as the most important of all the issues of the coming campaign. While not regarding his speech as a campaign utterance, he said:

"If I were to discuss with you the issues of the campaign, I should begin with the most important of them all, the maintenance of a stable, a secure, a strong and an aggressive pro-American government in the City of New York, a government that may be relied upon to support the hands of President Wilson and the government of the United States in the prosecution of this way, in every phase."

Out of the eighteen Brooklyn Assembly districts, in a total of twenty-three, which Mr. Bennett carried against the Mayor, the Mitchell vote in the strongly German districts was noticeably small. In the 18th District, where 1,016 votes were cast, Mayor Mitchell received only 98. This is the strongest German district in Brooklyn and has always been strongly Republican. The 20th District in Williamsburg, another strongly German and strongly Republican district, gave Mitchell only 535 votes, as against 2,280 for Bennett.

The 22d District in East New York, which is part German and part Jewish, gave Bennett 1,593 votes and Mitchell 692. The districts in Queens, where Germans predominate and the vote is normally Republican, voted overwhelmingly for Bennett. It was also noted that the strong Jewish districts in Brownsville and other Brooklyn sections gave Bennett a substantial majority.

Viewed as Anti-Mitchel Vote

In political circles generally the large Bennett vote was interpreted as a personal slap at Mayor Mitchell. It was pointed out that it was not so much a Bennett vote as an anti-Mitchel vote. This opinion was supported by the fact that Controller Prendergast and Robert Adams, the Fusion candidates for Controller and President of the Board of Aldermen, ran thousands ahead of the Mayor in Brooklyn, as well as most of the other boroughs. The large Prendergast vote in Brooklyn particularly was surprising, as the Controller and the Mayor were supposed to have incurred about an equal amount of enmity in that borough.

The fact that Adams ran far ahead of any of the other candidates on the Fusion ticket was credited by some of the leaders to the left-of-center campaign which the Fire Commissioner made on his own account prior to the primaries. He was the only Fusion candidate who pretended to make any life-primary campaign. He made speeches in all parts of the city, sometimes two or three in a night.

Bennett Held Too Lightly

Mayor Mitchell and other Fusion leaders plainly indicated yesterday that they had taken the Bennett straight Republican campaign too lightly. They admitted that it had been a mistake not to have opened a vigorous pre-primary campaign against Bennett, especially in Brooklyn. Just who is responsible for the mistake is likely to be a matter of careful investigation, and may lead to a reorganization, in some degree, of the Fusion campaign committee. The Mayor has a reputation for investigating which dates back to the time when he was Commissioner of Accounts.

While the Mayor and the Fusion leaders were inclined to comment heavily on the significance of the Bennett vote, there was a tightening of the demand for explanations from somebody in the Fusion camp. It was

Wilson Names Board to End Pacific Strikes

Takes Personal Charge of United States Mediation Efforts

Defeated Candidate To Demand Recount

Fusion, Alarmed by Result, Starts Energetic Campaign

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—President Wilson to-day took personal charge of the strike situation on the Pacific Coast, which is interfering with progress on government ship construction and is threatening to delay the aircraft programme. The creation of a commission of five members, headed by Secretary of Labor Wilson, was announced by the White House for the purpose of immediately investigating the labor situation in the Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain states.

The new commission, it was stated, will represent the President and will report directly to him. Its membership comprises, besides Secretary Wilson, Colonel J. L. Spangler, of Pennsylvania; Vernon Z. Reed, of Colorado; John H. Walker, of Illinois, and E. P. Marsh, of Washington. Felix Frankfurter, of New York, who has been acting as confidential secretary to Secretary of War Baker, will serve as secretary of the commission.

Though the strike disturbances in the Pacific Coast ports are apparently the immediate stimulus which moved the President to create the new labor commission, it is believed here that he has had the project in view for some time. Organized labor has been considerably perturbed at the meagreness of its Washington representation on the various war boards.

Gompers's Hand Seen

In consequence for some weeks strong pressure has been brought to bear on the President to appoint a labor commission, the personnel of which should be selected by the American Federation of Labor. The new commission, though headed by Secretary of Labor Wilson, is nevertheless considered essentially a federation commission. It is believed here that its membership was suggested to the President by Samuel Gompers.

The President's statement announcing the creation of the new commission, made public in the form of a memorandum to Secretary of Labor Wilson, reads:

"I am very much interested in the labor situation in the mountain region and on the Pacific Coast. I have listened with attention and concern to the numerous charges of misconduct and injustice that representatives both of employers and of employees have made against each other. I am not so much concerned, however, with the manner in which they have treated each other as I am desirous of seeing some kind of a working arrangement arrived at for the future, particularly during the period of the war, on a basis that will be fair to all parties concerned."

Names "Personal Representatives"

"To assist in the accomplishment of that purpose I have decided to appoint a commission to visit the localities where disagreements have been most frequent as my personal representatives."

"It will be the duty of the commission to visit in each instance the Governor of the state, advising him of the situation and the views of the President and the representatives of the President with a view to lending sympathetic counsel and aid to the state government in the development of a better understanding between laborers and employers, and also to compose differences and allay misunderstandings and in any way that may be open to them to show the active interest of the national government in furthering arrangements just to both sides."

"Wherever it is deemed advisable conferences of employers and employees should be called with the purpose of working out a mutual understanding between them which will insure the continued operation of the industry on conditions acceptable to both sides. The commission should also endeavor to learn the real causes for any discontent which may exist on either side, not by the formal process of public hearings, but by getting in touch with workers and employers by the more informal process of personal conversation. I would be pleased to have the commission report to me from time to time such information as may require immediate attention."

The San Francisco strike situation remained unchanged to-day. Conferences were reported to be continuing between the shipbuilders' representatives and the striking workmen. The situation, however, looks hopeful. It was stated at the Shipping Board's headquarters.

Labor and employers' interests are equally represented on the President's commission. Colonel Spangler and Mr. Reed are business men, and Mr. Walker and Mr. Marsh are presidents, respectively, of the Illinois and Washington labor unions. Mr. Frankfurter is a special assistant of Secretary Baker and has acted confidentially in a number of labor situations involving the War Department.

Kaiser Won't Pay For U. S. Prisoner

Semi-Official Agency Denies Offer of Reward of 300 Marks

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 20.—A Berlin dispatch from the Wolff Bureau, the semi-official news agency, received here to-day, denies as a ridiculous invention the report from Paris that the German Emperor had promised a reward of 300 marks and three weeks' leave to the first German who captured an American soldier.

The Wolff Bureau message adds that after capturing 3,000,000 prisoners Germany has no occasion to offer head money for any more.

A dispatch from the British Headquarters in France and Belgium September 15 said the German general commanding the Eleventh Reserve Division had offered for the first American, dead or alive, 400 marks, two weeks' leave and a reward for his capture. The diary of a captured Prussian sergeant contained a notation of this offer.

British Drive Ahead a Mile, Capture 2,000

Haig Makes Great Gains in New Offensive on Eight-Mile Front

'Planes and Tanks In All-Day Battle

Five Barrages Precede Attack—German Counter Blows Fail

By Arthur S. Draper

LONDON, Sept. 20.—Behind five walls of flying steel—the most terrible barrage fire the war has yet produced—British troops drove forward at dawn to-day over eight miles of the front east of Ypres.

From the Ypres-Staten Railway to the Ypres-Comines Canal positions on which the Germans have been working for months to fortify and strengthen were smashed by the unprecedented artillery blasts and withering storms of gas and liquid fire, and Haig's men took all the first day's objectives with unexpected ease.

"Great success attended our troops," says the British official statement to-night, while the German report briefly says: "The battle is still in full swing. In the forefront of our defensive zone bitter fluctuation in fighting has taken place since morning."

Haig announces further: "Positions of considerable military importance were won and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy." He gives unusual details concerning the attack.

Many territories, including Australians and South Africans, took part in to-day's attacks, but for almost the first time in such an offensive Canadians are not mentioned in the communiqué.

Gains by Country Troops

On the extreme right of the British line, according to Haig, English country troops, after sharp fighting just north of the canal, reached their objectives, while farther north, about the center of the British drive, Australians and North Countrymen captured their objectives to a depth of more than a mile, taking Veldhoek and penetrating into Polygon Wood.

On the British left, Londoners and Irishmen captured the strongly fortified Rosebeke and Wurfs farms, their final objectives, about a mile and a half from their starting point.

Although rain fell during the night, while the British assembled their troops and the artillery poured a blinding hail of fire on the German positions, the sun burned away the mists shortly after daybreak, and the attacking troops had clear weather, and no more mud than was expected.

It was fortunate for the British that the weather cleared, for it enabled the airmen to play their part, which, according to all reports, was greater than in any battle of the war. Riding low, the wheels often seemed to graze the German helmets, the British aviators poured machine gun bullets into the closely packed ranks of von Arnim's troops, definitely engaging the enemy's actual order and according to the prearranged plan of battle.

Airmen Foil Counter Attacks

Haig announces that the airmen's cooperation with the artillery enabled it to shatter all the German attempts to concentrate for counter attacks, while those which got started, he declared, were repulsed with rifle and machine gun fire.

More than 2,000 prisoners already have arrived behind the British lines, while a few guns have been taken. There is no doubt that the Germans anticipated the attack in this sector, and the airman reported a concentration of many German reserve battalions behind the particular places attacked. For this reason, it is believed the German casualties were very heavy, for the artillery fire reached the greatest depth ever seen at the point where the Germans had brought up many divisions. This concentration probably will result in heavy counter attacks, and the chief interest to-night is how much further the British will be able to carry on.

It may be that the present objectives taken are as far as Haig intends to push, but the public is hoping for a continuance of the successfully started and long awaited offensive.

While this year's fighting has produced many wonderful concentrations of artillery, to-day's barrage exceeded anything hitherto considered possible. It was like five waves of steel led flowing over the pill boxes, the fortified farms and concrete trenches, weaving backwards like a giant, gnashing its teeth, and the whole zone of destruction. Behind these impenetrable curtains walked the British troops, lightly clad, so as to make easier progress among the deep shell craters and mounds of mud.

Hanging clouds scurried over the battlefield before a forty-mile gale, which made the cooperation of the airmen more difficult and more to be admired.

German opposition to the advance was fierce at many points, the artillery retaliating desperately, hammering the British right wing and center. Strangely enough, the tanks did not play a prominent part in to-day's advance, the deep mud of the Ypres salient being unfavorable to their style of progress.

From all available reports things went well with the British to-day, and increasing the offensive will have a powerful effect in bracing up spirits at home.

Scene of Great German Drive

The ground over which the British made their new attack was the scene of the last German effort in the spring of 1915 to break through to Calais. It was here that they experimented first with gas, and it was here that they made a stand which still lives as one of the high-water marks of the war.

South of the Ypres-Menin road the country is hilly and well suited for defensive purposes, while to the north it is swampy and practically impassable after any considerable rainfall such as that of the last six weeks.

Sugar To Sell At About 8 Cts. After Oct. 15

Producers Agree With Food Administration on Wholesale Price

International Board To Rule World Supply

United States and Allies Name Five Experts to Control Distribution

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Beet sugar producers, in conferences with the food administration to-day, reached a unanimous agreement under which the stable retail price of sugar will be about eight cents a pound. They will sell to wholesalers at Eastern refining points at seven and one-quarter cents a pound, cane basis, and the retail price, it was stated, would normally be not more than three-quarters of a cent higher.

At the same time, the food administration announced that an international committee of five had been named to arrange for the purchase and distribution of the vast quantities of sugar needed by the United States and Allied countries. This committee, acting through the food administration under authority of President Wilson's proclamation placing the sugar industry in this country under license, will control a large proportion of the world's sugar output.

To Plan for Distribution

George M. Rolph, head of the food administration's sugar division; Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company, and William A. Jamison, of Arbuckle Brothers, are the American members of the committee. The Allied nations are represented by Sir Joseph White-Todd and James V. Drake, Sr., British sugar men.

Details of the sugar distributing plan will be worked out by a food administration committee including H. A. Douglass, Detroit; E. C. Howe, Denver; W. H. Hannam, San Francisco; S. H. Love, Salt Lake City; W. S. Petriken, Denver; S. W. Sinsheimer, Huntington Beach, Cal.; and W. P. Turner, Detroit.

Inclusion of the big Cuban cane sugar producing interests in the Allied distributing scheme will be discussed with the food administration to-morrow by the Cuban Minister, Dr. Manuel De Cespedes, and two Cuban sugar growers, Jose Miguel Terafa and Jose Ignacio Lecama.

Cuban participation in the plan is expected, particularly in view of the government's power to prevent importation by refusing licenses to producers not agreeing to the uniform price.

American cane sugar representatives, it is believed, will take action similar to that of the beet sugar men within a week. Most cane producers already have agreed to a 7 1/2-cent price, or the equivalent, but this is not regarded as final until the decision is unanimous. The objections of about 10 per cent of the beet sugar men to the low price were composed at a final conference to-day.

Effective in October

The new sugar price will become effective in the West on October 1, when the 1917 crop reaches the refineries, and in the East about two weeks later.

The present price of beet sugar to wholesalers is about 8 1/2 cents a pound. "This patriotic action on the part of the beet sugar producers of the United States," said a food administration statement to-day, "demonstrates conclusively the value of this industry to the country in coming forward with low prices at a time when sugar naturally would be selling at much higher levels."

War Board Fixes Price of Copper Below the Market

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Copper prices were fixed to-day at 23 1/2 cents a pound, about 3 cents below the prevailing market, by agreement between the government and leading copper producers, effective for four months. Sales to the government, the public and the Allies will be at this price, f. o. b. (free on board cars) New York. The producers agreed not to reduce wages now paid in the industry. They also pledged themselves to maintain maximum production and to prevent copper from falling into the hands of speculators.

Although the price is fixed under voluntary agreement between producers and the government's War Industries Board, with the President's approval, it was announced officially that under the Executive's war power "the proper departments of the government will be asked to take necessary measures and plans of any producers who fail to conform to the arrangement and price."

The price agreed upon to-day was set after extensive investigation of production costs by the Federal Trade Commission. The commission's report was understood to have indicated that copper could be sold profitably at a much lower price than 23 1/2 cents, but in reaching its decision the War Industries Board, headed by Frank A. Scott, took into consideration that the price should not be pared down to the point where production would be discouraged or wages reduced.

"Three important conditions were imposed by the board," said an announcement. "First, that the producers would not reduce the wages now being paid; second, that the operators would sell to the Allies and to the public at the same price paid by the government; and, third, that the producers would not reduce the price to the public; and, third, that the operators

Congress Gets Proof of Spy Plots In Business, Army and Red Cross

Strict Censorship on Mails and Cables Agreed On

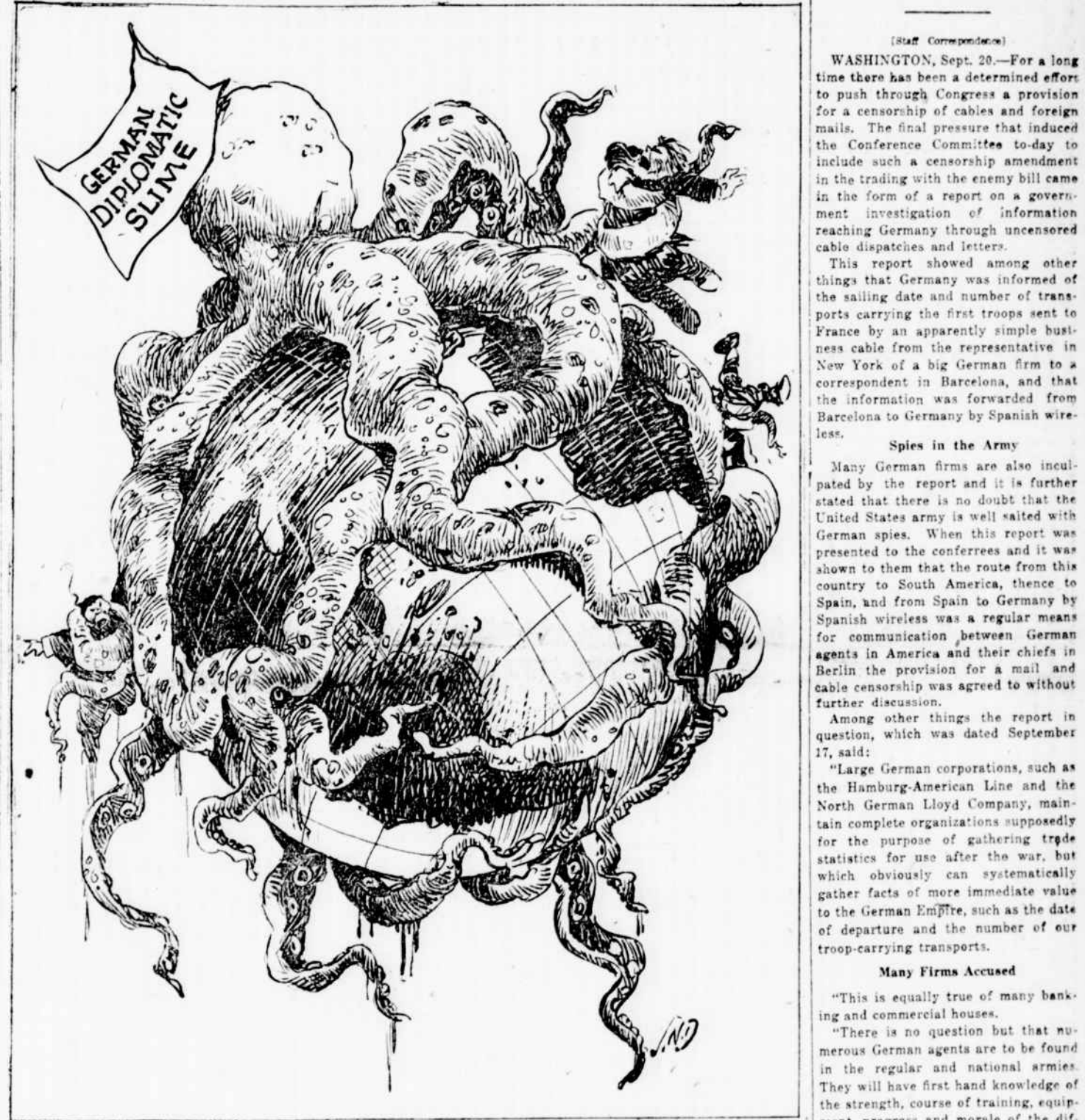
[Staff Correspondence]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—The House and Senate conferees on the trading with the enemy bill added to it to-day an amendment providing for a censorship on all outgoing and incoming cable messages and letters, and made an attempt to evade this censorship or to use a code punishable by a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for ten years, or both. The proposed amendment reads:

Whenever during the present war the President shall deem that the public safety demands it, he may cause to be censored, under such rules and regulations as he may from time to time establish, communications by mail, cable, radio or other means of transmission passing between the United States and any such foreign country as he may from time to time specify or which may be carried by any vessel or other means of transportation touching at any place in territory of the United States and bound to or from any such foreign country.

Any person who wilfully evades or attempts to evade the submission of any such communication to such censorship or wilfully uses or attempts to use any code or other device for the purpose of concealing from such censorship the intended meaning of such communication shall be punished as provided in Section 16 of this act.

IS THERE ANY PLACE IT HASN'T REACHED?



Tribune Warned Government Months Ago of Spy Menace

After having investigated the menace of German spies in mercantile, banking, shipping and insurance circles and the agencies of communication that were open to them, The Tribune on July 3 last addressed an identical telegram to the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of War and the United States Attorney General, calling their attention to the following facts:

THAT enemy aliens in New York and elsewhere were as free as American citizens to go anywhere they like and to all points where military operations can be observed.

THAT on Ellis Island, in New York Harbor, were interned a number of German sailors and spies, who must have seen the Pershing expedition pass, and that these German sailors and spies were free to receive enemy aliens from shore and impart to them any information whatever.

THAT outgoing cables were not effectively censored and that information of vital importance escaped in this way to Germany, notwithstanding the British censorship on the other side.

THAT any enemy alien could freely telegraph information to a point just this side of the Mexican border, that it could be carried thence into Mexico by a confederate and that there were various means by which it could then be transmitted to Germany.

THAT the outgoing mail was uncensored and that a great deal of mail went to neutral countries and thence into Germany without passing through the hands of the British censor.

THAT enemy owned and enemy managed insurance companies were engaged in the business of reinsuring ship construction risks, and thereby obtained detailed information pertaining to the progress of our armed merchant marine.

THAT enemy owned and enemy managed insurance companies, by reason of having issued policies on munitions plants, had the right to enter such plants, examine them and make plans of them.

The Tribune asked what would be done about it. No answer was received.

On July 6 it published a statement of conditions.

Subsequently The Tribune called attention to the danger of the Spanish cable and to the manner in which it was available to the use of German spies in the United States.

Only One Leak Stopped

Shortly afterward a special proclamation was issued by the President barring German insurance companies from marine business only. They were allowed to continue writing fire insurance, however. Thus, to this day German insurance companies are insuring munitions plants.

There are still hundreds of alien enemies employed in insurance circles. The ban even upon marine insurance was not laid until it was officially charged by the Navy Department that U-boats attacking the ships of Pershing's expedition undoubtedly received advance information through insurance circles working with some neutral country.

The only other move made by the government to restrict the activities of German spies was the placing of a censorship on all cables wherever addressed. Commander A. B. Hoff, a retired naval officer, was recalled from the publicity bureau of the Erie Railroad and placed in charge of this work.

THAT enemy owned and enemy

Message From New York Firm Revealed Sailing of U. S. Transports

Secrets Sent Through Spain

Investigators Disclose That German Business Branches Here Are Agents

[Staff Correspondence]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—For a long time there has been a determined effort to push through Congress a provision for a censorship of cables and foreign mails. The final pressure that induced the Conference Committee to-day to include such a censorship amendment in the trading with the enemy bill came in the form of a report on a government investigation of information reaching Germany through uncensored cable dispatches and letters.

This report showed among other things that Germany was informed of the sailing date and number of transports carrying the first troops sent to France by an apparently simple business cable from the representative in New York of a big German firm to a correspondent in Barcelona, and that the information was forwarded from Barcelona to Germany by Spanish wireless.

Spies in the Army

Many German firms are also inculcated by the report and it is further stated that there is no doubt that the United States army is well salted with German spies. When this report was presented to the conferees and it was shown to them that the route from this country to South America, thence to Spain, and from Spain to Germany by Spanish wireless was a regular means for communication between German agents in America and their chiefs in Berlin the provision for a mail and cable censorship was agreed to without further discussion.

Among other things the report in question, which was dated September 17, said:

"Large German corporations, such as the Hamburg-American Line and the North German Lloyd Company, maintain complete organizations supposedly for the purpose of gathering trade statistics for use after the war, but which obviously can systematically gather facts of more immediate value to the German Empire, such as the date of departure and the number of our troop-carrying transports."

Many Firms Accused

"This is equally true of many banking and commercial houses.

"There is no question but that numerous German agents are to be found in the regular and national armies. They will have first hand knowledge of the strength, course of training, equipment, progress and morale of the different units."

"The many thousands of aliens and sympathizers in all walks of life are in a position to gather accurate data as to financial and industrial conditions, the type and production of munitions of war, guns, aircraft, etc., in the United States, as well as the state of public opinion with respect to the war.

"It is worthy of note, as evidence of the material value to the enemy of uncensored mails, that the British government in the first two years of the war detained letters destined to Germany containing checks, drafts, money orders and remittances in various forms to the value of \$250,000,000.

"In this connection we are informed by the office of — that the information as to the departure of the — transports carrying American troops to France was probably conveyed to the German government in a cable message sent by one — head of the German — company in New York to one —, Barcelona, Spain. The message was dated June 14, the date the transports sailed."

There follows in the report a copy of the original message, with the translation after it was decoded.

Spain Is Clearing House

A second report submitted to the conferees gives details of how information gets to Germany through Spain. It says:

"At the present time, through the British and French governments, an effective censorship is exercised as regards all mail from North and South America to the Northern European countries. There is, however, no censorship of mails going from South or Central America through New York or from the United States to Spain. The result has been that all communications with the enemy of such a character that they would be stopped by the British and French censors are sent to Spain. Moreover, the censorship of outgoing mail to South America has enabled a continuation of business by branch German houses here and in South America, the transfer of funds